

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

OF INDIANA

LIBRARY OCCURRENT

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WHY OCCURRENT

To those of our library friends who have expressed themselves as interested in our title, we cheerfully reply to the question, "Why Occurrent?"

The selection of a suitable name for a child, corporation, association, book or periodical is not accomplished without due consideration on the part of its sponsors, directors, or publishers. So when the Public Library Commission of Indiana was called upon to choose a name for its new publication it was actuated by much the same motives which govern the selection of names in the above cases. Sometimes a child is named for one bound by kinship or association. A dear woman, active in all that concerns the best interests of society, once told a Commission worker of two publications issued in times gone by, one called *The Intelligencer*, the other *The Occurrent*, so a decade ago when a weekly paper devoted

to the interests of Indiana libraries and clubs was started, it was styled *Public Occurrent* and was instrumental in creating public opinion which expressed itself in the organization of libraries and their improvement.

When the Commission wished to adopt a distinctive title "*Occurrent*" was again called into use, this time with the prefix *Library*, old, big, and active enough to bring it from an obsolete past to become, we trust, a live factor in a library present undreamed of in times when it was commonly used to designate that which was taking place.

CENTERS OF LIBRARY INFLUENCE

PART 2

In the last issue of *Library Occurrent* appeared introductory statements regarding *Centers of Library Influence* in the various phases of library activity. These were followed by general information concerning the American Library Association, its object and aim, its desire for permanency of location, an urgent call to Indiana libraries, trustees, librarians and assistants to become members of this National organization with the suggestive program for the approaching meeting at Narragansett Pier.

This brings us to a consideration of special state activities as found in state organizations for the promotion of li-

library interests, as follows: State Libraries, State Associations of Libraries and Library Commissions.

Among the more active state libraries may be mentioned New York, Connecticut, Maine, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, California and Washington. The Association of State Libraries was formed in Washington, D. C., 1898, and during the last few years has met at the same time and place as the American Library Association, with which it is affiliated.

State Associations of Librarians had their beginning in 1890, when the New York Library Association was formed. Gradually other states have swung into line.

Last, but by no means least, in this state trio may be mentioned Library Commissions. Some of these were organized by or in connection with State Libraries, but others were organized to perform a more aggressive work than that undertaken by State Libraries, which were for the most part organized to preserve the historical and sociological collections of the several states, to which were added certain legislative functions more or less related to library work.

The appearance of this new factor in library development in some states was regarded with favor, which increased as the Commissions unfolded their plans, developed and stimulated local library organization and brought about more efficient administration. All the recent library activity can not by any means be attributed to Library Commissions, but it is fortunate that when this library awakening came, the library commissions of the several states were able to wisely direct library activities so that the local

libraries of the several states which have come in close touch with their state commissions have wasted little in energy and equipment and have been able to serve their communities with better facilities than would have been possible had each been working out the local library problem alone.

Upon the suggestion of Miss Alice Tyler, Secretary of the Iowa Library Commission, a national association of commissions was organized at St. Louis and Portland, and a constitution and by-laws adopted at Indianapolis. This organization is known as the League of Library Commissions and is to meet with the A. L. A., with which it is affiliated.

LIBRARY COMMISSIONS.

COMMISSION WORK IN OTHER STATES.

The awakening of the modern library spirit in this country dates from 1876.

In the different educational meetings and conferences from then until now there has been evident the need of instilling in the child as a student, the desire to remain a student in his various subsequent avocations. To meet this need educators have been planning for the closer relationship of the citizen and the free library.

Massachusetts, the pioneer in educational movements, realized, in 1890, that the first essential of a good library law is the appointment of a Commission which shall advise a community when the library spirit in it is being aroused as to the best method of procedure to give an interpretation of the library law. The members of the Commission were chosen because of personal fitness rather than on account of their official positions.

This initial Commission provided for an unpaid board of five, which should give advice to librarians or to the trustees of any public library who might ask for help in regard to the selection of books or any matter pertaining to the maintenance or administration of the library.

This has been the incentive for the foundation of the other 23 Commissions in the United States. If in the beginning the states wishing to secure library legislation would authorize the Commission, after a careful study of conditions, to draft the library laws, oftentimes more efficient laws would result. The three things which this Commission intended to do were: (1) the establishment of permanent local libraries, (2) the reorganization and improvement of existing libraries, including technical training and increasing its relation with the school, (3) the circulation of free reading matter in places which have no libraries.

These three departments of work comprise almost everything any Commission may do. But the advisability of doing this or that must depend partly on the nature of the community and the response of the people. Hence any Commission must study conditions, know about the industries, have knowledge of the nationality of the community and know the cultural movements in the state with which the Commission may co-operate. Twenty-three states have met this idea of growth in the following order and manner:

The Massachusetts Commission of five was appointed in 1890. At that time there were 105 towns in the state without a free public library; in 1905 there are none.

The New Hampshire Commission was modeled from that of Massachusetts and dates from 1891. The chief feature of the legislation in both states is that the library commission is authorized to expend \$100 for books for the benefit of any town within the state having no free library, provided definite appropriations are made for the support of the library by the town.

In 1893 Connecticut passed a law establishing a public library commission, authorizing it to expend for books an amount not exceeding \$200 to encourage any town without a free public library to institute one. In no case did the allowance exceed the sum expended by the town itself for the same purpose.

Vermont has had a board of Commissioners since 1894, with the state fund limited to \$100 in state aid for each free public library.

Wisconsin passed an act in 1895 "to promote the establishment and efficiency of free public libraries." In ten years' time this Commis-

sion has grown to be a source of inspiration to the whole library world.

Ohio in 1896 placed her state library in charge of three Commissioners appointed by the governor. The State librarian, who is appointed by the Commission, acts as its Secretary. The Commission makes such rules as seem expedient for the use of the State Library and its books. Under this law, traveling libraries are now loaned to clubs and public libraries. Individuals may borrow books from the State Library by paying the cost of transportation.

Michigan began in 1895 to make provisions for traveling libraries and created a Library Commission in 1899.

In 1899 six other states established Commissions, namely: Indiana, Kansas, Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota and Pennsylvania; in 1900, two others, Iowa and New Jersey. In 1901, Nebraska, Delaware and Maine established Commissions, and in 1902 Maryland did likewise.

During the year 1903 the amount of library legislation is very striking. The Commissions received special attention. Three went out of existence and three new ones were created. New Hampshire supplemented her Commission by conferring its powers on the trustees of the State Library. Washington state also substituted a single body consisting of Governor, supreme court judge and attorney-general. In Idaho the Commission of 1901 is reorganized by a new one with the usual duties relating to free and traveling libraries. Connecticut, after ten years of state aid to libraries, made provision for a library inspector, traveling libraries and pictures for which \$2,000 is annually appropriated. Colorado and Maryland have two Commissions, one to have charge of traveling libraries with a two-year appropriation of \$2,000, and the other to advise public librarians. Wisconsin has a new distinct traveling library department. The Commission continues its supervisory relation to the traveling systems which are independently organized and were given legal status in 1901. For the enlargement of its duties, expansion of its legislative reference room and for strengthening its work in the field, the annual appropriation is doubled to \$18,000. There are now 24 Commissions in 22 states. Traveling libraries are maintained by 18 states and 10 make grants of money or

gifts of books to public libraries. There is a constantly growing appreciation of what a Commission can do to promote the establishment of new libraries, to aid and improve old ones and to provide good reading matter free for isolated communities. To do this satisfactorily there should be one or more persons in thorough and intelligent sympathy with the work, who give it their full time and attention. There must be suitable rooms and office equipment. In 14 of the Commission states the total increase in appropriation for the year 1903 was slightly over 36 per cent. In each of these states it is expressly stipulated that the Commissioners are unpaid, thus exemplifying the missionary spirit of the age. In several of the states, especially New Jersey and Pennsylvania, there were a few people who supported the Commission by private subscription until the state saw the increase of library interest from such a Commission.

WORK OF INDIANA COMMISSION.

The library legislation of Indiana in 1899 was the result of the work of a committee from the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs. For years, except in towns of over 10,000 inhabitants, the library laws had been almost prohibitory rather than encouraging. As the club movement increased and as the desire for culture and knowledge became more widespread in the towns and villages of Indiana, club members realizing their own needs, awoke to those of others and to the imposition to which the Indianapolis and other of the older libraries were subjected in sending books out of the city to those who had no library facilities.

In June, 1897, at the eighth meeting of the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs, there was brought out a stirring discussion on the tendency in all phases of society to form clubs and reading circles. This fostering of a spirit of culture brought with it the absolute need for access to libraries and a systematic use of them. A resolution was passed "That the president of the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs should appoint a committee of five, of which she should be one, to co-operate with the Indiana Library Association in framing a law which shall secure to Indiana a Library Commission, and this committee to report progress at the next annual meeting of the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Earl, of Connersville, was chosen as chairman, with Mrs. Jacob P. Dunn, Miss Affie Catlin and Prof. T. F. Moran and Mr. J. F. Stutesman as members. The committee was composed of live and energetic members who carried on an extensive correspondence and visited library meetings until they were decided upon three things: (1) What they knew they wanted and thought the state ought to have. (2) What they thought the joint committee from the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs and the Indiana Library Association might endorse and what they hoped the General Assembly might grant. (3) The need of a Library Commission and traveling libraries. At the I. U. of L. C. Convention of 1898 this report was accepted and the same committee continued and instructed to draft a bill along the lines laid down in the report and to get it before the General Assembly in the following session.

The committee began immediately a persistent campaign of getting before the representatives, by means of the club secretaries, the purpose of the bill and the need of a Commission. The candidates for the legislature were interviewed, thus making the Commission bill a local issue. The bill met with many backsets and discouragements, but after convincing a majority of the legislators that it was to the best interest of the people as a whole, the bill was passed.

With this legal recognition the Commission set about on a library campaign. Governor Mount appointed as members of the Public Library Commission, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Earl, of Connersville; Mr. Jacob P. Dunn, of Indianapolis, and Mr. Joseph R. Voris, of Bedford. Mrs. Earl was reappointed by Governor Mount and Mr. Dunn by Governor Durbin. Mr. Voris at the expiration of his term, declined reappointment, and Mr. W. W. Parsons, of Terre Haute, was chosen.

To meet an apparent need, the Commission induced the General Assembly of 1901 to amend the act concerning the Public Library Commission of 1899, as follows:

"Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That Section 5 of said act be amended to read as follows:

"Section 5. There is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the treasury not otherwise

appropriated, the sum of \$1,000 annually to be expended under the direction of said Commission for clerical assistance to the State Library and other expenses of said Commission made necessary by this act, including traveling expenses of the members of said Commission in the discharge of their duties."

This enabled the Commission to secure the services of a library organizer and to begin a systematic extension of library privileges to all the people of the state. The legislature of 1903 saw the work of the Commission and accordingly passed the following:

"Said Public Library Commission shall be assigned a permanent office room in the State House, with storage and shipping rooms in the basement of the same, sufficient for the performance of its duties. It shall have the custody, control and management of the traveling libraries hereinafter provided for, shall purchase the books and collections of books therefor and the equipment of the same; shall adopt rules and regulations for loaning such books and collections of books to library associations and to the persons entitled to borrow the same and shall provide for and require such security and guaranty for the safe return of such books or collection of books as may be deemed advisable; shall prepare lists of books suitable for public libraries and obtain prices for the same, and furnish such lists when required; shall furnish information or advice as to the organization, maintenance or administration of any library in the state. It shall also provide courses of library instruction, print lists and circulars of information, and perform such other service in behalf of public libraries as it may consider for the best interests of the state. The said Commission shall employ a secretary and such other assistants as shall be requisite for the performance of the services above specified, who shall serve under the direction of the Commission. The Commission shall each year obtain reports of all libraries in the state, and on October 31, 1904, the Commission shall make a full report to the Governor as to the library conditions and progress in Indiana. This report, when printed, shall be presented to the General Assembly of the State of Indiana and biennially thereafter a like report shall be made. These reports are to be printed and bound by the state, the same as other public

documents, and shall be distributed by the Public Library Commission. * * * There is hereby annually appropriated from any funds in the treasury not otherwise specifically appropriated the sum of \$7,000 to carry into effect the provisions of this act."

The fulfillment of this legislation is for the sake of organization divided into six departments, which are arranged below:

1. Organization and improvement of public libraries.
2. Work with schools.
3. Instruction of librarians.
4. Purchase and circulation of traveling libraries.
5. Library institutes and visits to farmers' institutes.
6. Office and publications.

The system of sending to any association in the state a general collection of books on some certain subject or a general collection, was one of the efforts to which the Indiana Commission devoted itself. At first the books were in the custody of the state librarian, but the administration was given to the Commission in November, 1902, and the custody of the books was transferred by law in 1903. In 1902 there were 119 associations in 52 counties. By means of circular letters and newspapers there was put before the public the possibilities in the use of these libraries. Through persistent effort Miss Georgia H. Reynolds, the Librarian of Traveling Libraries, has brought the annual libraries circulated from 72 to 259. This is estimated to represent approximately 40,000 readers of the books supplied by the state.

The traveling library system has been one of the three characteristic features in the beginning of the work of every Commission. There is reason for this, since the only way in which to interest the people in books is for them to have books with the privilege to handle them. In Indiana the traveling libraries are of two classes: the general, consisting of books of fiction, juvenile books, nonfiction, biography, science, essays, etc.; the study club or special subject libraries, such as American history.

It is through the use of these books that in many places the library spirit has been aroused.

From the opening of the Public Library Commission office November 1, 1901, information concerning the selection of books, library or-

ganization, improved methods in administration, instruction of librarians, building plans, etc., has been given to many from various parts of the state who have visited or corresponded with the Commission in the interest of local library organization.

By the recent co-operation of Indiana Commission with the National League of Library Commissions better and longer buying lists are distributed by the Commission to the local libraries. Already the state has received great gain from the alliance of the Commissions of Iowa, Minnesota, Oregon, Wisconsin and other states.

In this day, when so many publishers are overwhelming the librarians with book lists it is necessary that some conservative body give advice as to those books which are worth while and of value to the community of the small library.

Realizing the particular need of Indiana, the Commission supplied all libraries with a neat bird bulletin of the Indiana birds. This bird bulletin was purposed to aid libraries in assisting pupils and teachers with local bird study in the schools by giving well selected lists of birds and citing people to literary or scientific studies of each particular bird of Indiana. The Commission affiliated expert service in the compilation of this work, thus receiving the most scientific contributions possibly available to Indiana.

It has been the purpose of the Commission to give the best instruction possible to those who might ask. In order to bring about this result systematically a class of thirteen was first gathered around two tables in the Commission office room, the course of lessons extending from October 31 to November 7, 1901. During the spring of 1902, from April 17 to May 15, the first organized school for librarians in Indiana was held at the Commission office. The corps of instruction consisted of Miss Hoagland as director; Miss Harriet L. Eaton, a graduate of Pratt, was the instructor, and Miss Marion F. Peace, of Joliet, Ill., was the pupil reviser. The desire for such instruction was so apparent that the Commission in May, 1903, secured the services of Miss Anna R. Phelps as permanent instructor. Miss Phelps is a graduate of Vassar and of the New York State Library School, having had some years' experi-

ence as a teacher and librarian. Owing to a lack of suitable quarters at the State House and because Winona Lake seemed to the Commission to afford facilities for pursuing a course of library study to advantage, the Commission conducted its second course in 1903 in connection with the Winona Assembly and Summer School. The result was so satisfactory that the school was held the following summer with a faculty increased by the addition of Miss Sabra W. Vought, Librarian of the University of Tennessee, and Miss Ida M. Mendenhall, a graduate of Earlham College, of Indiana State Normal School, and of Pratt Institute Library School. The attendance of this third course with the advanced class numbered 22. To the advanced class was admitted only those who had taken a previous introductory course of six weeks. The influence of this number of people going out to their separate fields of labor with a zeal for organization and a desire to supply and increase the library spirit, coupled with the great beneficence of Mr. Carnegie in making possible the erection of so many library buildings, can not help but lift Indiana's library system to much nearer the ideal. The Commission desires that the longings for the investigation of truth and searchings for righteousness shall be encouraged and fostered by a lack of friction in the machinery required to make available the books necessary for such research as the people themselves want.

In awakening the people to their possibilities in library privileges the Commission has made use of the Farmers' Institutes and by holding Library Institutes throughout the state. As far as the records show, the first Library Institute held in the United States was conducted by Miss Cornelia Marvin, recently appointed Secretary of the Oregon Commission, in the Public Library at Indianapolis under the auspices of the Indiana Library Association, December 20-31, 1896. [The idea of this institute originated with Miss M. E. Ahern, secretary of the I. L. A. at that time.—Ed.]

On October 30-31, 1902, the Public Library Commission held a similar institute at its office, Miss Hoagland conducting it. In May, 1903, the Commission divided Indiana into 17 districts for the purpose of holding institutes. This marked the first organized effort for a

system of library institutes in Indiana, which increased to 14 in the year 1904.

The object of the Library Institute is to arouse interest in the establishment of new public libraries and new traveling library centers and in the reorganization or improvement of older libraries. Special attention is given to the relation of the library to the community, schools, and clubs. Lectures are given on the use of the library, its administration according to modern methods. The Indiana Union of Literary Clubs and the Indiana Federation of Women's Clubs have co-operated with the Commission in appointing district library institute committees who are responsible for the library interests in their sections.

The concentration of efforts to definite areas can not but lead to an improvement in the library organization of the state. Those who attend these library institutes come away with not only an increased amount of enthusiasm, but with practical plans which they may execute in their own libraries. Free and open discussion is granted so that one may be informed concerning his individual needs which were perhaps left out in the general treatment of the subject. Chiefly through the press local library interest may be thoroughly revived, thus the local library receiving much benefit from the institute being conducted in its midst.

Those Commissions which are most successful are those which have a salaried organizer, whose time is devoted to effecting the purpose of the local committee. This is to secure the establishment of public libraries in localities able to secure them. It is always best that the first step toward public library privileges be taken by the people themselves. From the report of the Public Library Commission of Indiana for 1901-04, the six steps in effecting public library organization are:

- (1) One or more persons become interested to establish a public library.

- (2) By personal interview or correspondence, advice is asked of the Public Library Commission concerning the best plans of organization.

- (3) A visit made by the organizer to confer with those most interested. Plans perfected a citizens' meeting, which should be well advertised, personally and publicly.

- (4) A citizens' meeting is held, preferably

in a public hall. The chairman and secretary regularly appointed. Discussion by citizens on the desirability of establishing a public library. An address by the organizer of the Public Library Commission with a full explanation of the text and provisions of the library law. The organizer calls for free expression of the tax-paying citizens on the desirability of or objections to the establishment of a library. If those present vote to establish a public library under the law of 1901-03 a Citizens' Library Board of seven is appointed to take the necessary steps.

- (5) Citizens' Library Board confers with the organizer and obtains from the Commission blanks for securing subscriptions under the provisions of the law. The committee selects a chairman, who divides the town into three sections, each to be visited by certain members of the Board, preferably in groups of two.

- (6) Subscription papers are filed with the clerk of the circuit court. The judge of the circuit court, the town board or city council, and the school board appoint the library board of seven members, who, when they have duly qualified, organize within the time prescribed by law, and, after electing officers, fixing the amount of tax levy, selecting a librarian and arranging for library rooms, proceed to collect the quarterly installments of subscriptions and to open the public library and reading room.

* * *

The Indiana Commission has recently incorporated a new department of work known as Library and School Co-operation. The purpose is to further the co-operation of the library with the school.

The American Library Association and the National Education Association have observed that this work of bringing about co-operation between library and school merits a separate recognition and hence they each have made resolutions accordingly. The people recognize this need when once it is brought to their minds. They know that it is bad policy to teach the child to read unless he is taught what to read, and so the method most urgent is to instruct the teachers themselves how to do research work and to know books and to learn the use of indexes and bibliographies. The librarians need instruction also.

As the first state to have a Commission which sufficiently sees this the one thing needed, Indiana has a leader and lecturer in this field of education. Miss Ida M. Mendenhall has been chosen to do this service. Her library training, together with her experience in the schoolroom, makes her fitted from each view point.

A course of lectures is scheduled for the Winona Summer School for Librarians, and for the Library School of the Winona Technical Institute.

To get this instruction directly to the teacher four normal schools and colleges of the state arranged for Miss Mendenhall to give courses of lectures during their 1905 spring terms. These courses, though treating of the same subjects given to the librarians, were arranged to meet more nearly the teachers' needs and assist them in methods of instructing their pupils in the use of libraries.

The subject of work with schools is presented at library institutes, club conferences and to different educational bodies. A correspondence is maintained between the librarian and instructor, thus keeping alive the spirit and fostering public opinion concerning the elevation of standards of reading.

The growth of this Commission is phenomenal, its power and effectiveness are daily increasing, hence a sketch of its work can not be brought to date. Let it be said in conclusion that when the libraries, schools, readers and the Library Commission work in co-operation, the educational influences of Indiana will advance in great bounds.

All advancing and effectual education is in three lines of procedure, the library, the laboratory and the lecture room. The State of Indiana realizes this and is furthering the equipment and administration of her libraries every day.

[Thesis prepared by Miss Florence Lindley, Earlham College graduate, class of 1905.]

"When

We gloriously forget ourselves, and plunge
Soul-forward, headlong, into a book's profound,
Impassioned for its beauty and salt of truth—
'Tis then we get the right good from a book."

—Elizabeth Browning.

INDIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting of the Indiana Library Association was held in 1891, when a call was sent out from the State Library to the librarians throughout the state to meet together for the purpose of discussing matters of interest. At this time lack of funds and assistants prevented many from attending and the meeting was very small. However, an organization was formed and a constitution adopted. The following were the officers chosen:

Mr. Thompson, Wabash College Library, President.

Mr. Cunningham, State Normal School, Vice-President.

Miss Ahern, State Library, Treasurer.

With this beginning the association grew in number from year to year and the interest steadily increased.

In 1896 the librarians over the state were asked to assist in a financial way in order that a profitable exposition of modern library methods and appliances might be provided. The response showed the development of library spirit in the five years of the existence of the association. At the suggestion of Miss Ahern, Miss Cornelia Marvin, teacher of library science in Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, was engaged to take charge of a three days' library institute. This proved to be a very successful meeting. It was at this time that Mr. Rutherford P. Hayes, Library Commissioner of Ohio, and secretary of the A. L. A., gave a talk on the good work being done by Library Commissions.

At the next meeting—1896—Governor Mount gave an address, in which he made a strong plea for some plan for the distribution of reading matter to the rural districts and promised his personal and official help in bringing such a matter about.

By this time the association had outgrown the old constitution and the need of a new one was felt, consequently the following changes were made: Active membership was limited to active librarians residing in the state, individual vote was changed to unit, and the time and place of meeting was left open.

At the ninth annual meeting, which was the first one under the change of constitution, the first report of the traveling library committee

was given and the following year—1899—the Public Library Commission of Indiana was established. The duties of the Commission were to buy, equip and send out to clubs, rural districts, small libraries and individuals, under certain restrictions, traveling libraries over the state. Governor Mount appointed this Commission and the legislature appropriated \$3,000 per year for the purpose of carrying on this work. The first year the Commission, with the aid of the State Library, did all the work necessary to inaugurate and place on a firm basis the traveling library movement.

In 1902 one of the most successful and enthusiastic meetings was held and the Association was given the privilege of having with them Mr. Melvil Dewey, whose very presence is an inspiration to good work. Mr. Dewey's address was on the educational value of the public library.

The following year Mr. John Cotton Dana was present and gave a very interesting and helpful talk on the work done in his library at Newark, N. J.

In 1905 the executive committee suggested that it would be an advantage to hold the meetings in the various towns so as to give the librarians an opportunity to visit other libraries. A vote was taken and it was decided to accept the invitation of the Muncie Public Library to hold the meeting there. The Association was fortunate in securing Mr. Reuben Gold Thwaites for an address on the "Library as a Factor in Popular Education."

The change in the place of meeting was found to be satisfactory and will probably become permanent. Kokomo was chosen as the next place of meeting.

The plans for the program have not been definitely made, but the executive committee has decided to hold a two days' institute, which will be in charge of Miss Mary Plummer, director of the Pratt Institute School of Library Training.

This sketch of the history of the Indiana Library Association, while incomplete, shows in a way what has been done in Indiana to further the advancement of library work within her borders.

WORK WITH CHILDREN.

Miss Harriet E. Hassler, children's librarian of Portland, Oregon, whom A. L. A. visitors remember with much genuine pleasure as she appeared upon the program and in her own library, writes of some interesting work in her department which, though not intended for publication, is worthy of mention. In telling of their Story Hour she says:

"I stood up by our Maypole and faced about a hundred tilted faces—all eager for their May Day story. I sometimes wonder what other children's librarians do who haven't these 'story hour people' for their inspiration.

"We had a satisfying day—the air was sweet with the breath of a great glass bowl of heliotrope, and I had two huge jars of the May or hawthorne and the mantel festooned with great boughs of snowball, as well as branches four feet long in four or five large vases. The children, in their fresh pink and white and blue frocks, looked like funny little posies themselves.

"Then throughout the winter we've been traveling! Our boys and girls have been reading enough biography and enough history, but our travel section was distressingly clean and undisturbed. So, in October, we began with our weekly story hour to tell tales of travelers—from Marco Polo to Peary. Then, having touched on about seven of the world's greatest travelers, we began to take our trip around the world, via Sitka (Alaska), Manchuria, China, Japan, etc., etc., and next Friday we expect to spend a day in Spain. Last Friday we visited the Pope in Rome, crossed the Bridge of Sighs in Venice, peeped into St. Marks, and actually found time left to climb Mt. Vesuvius and to watch a part of the eruption! Of course, the whole story has to be shockingly superficial, but the children are actually reading many of our books of travel and enjoying them, which is the supreme test, don't you think so?"

"He that loveth a good book will never want a faithful friend, a wholesome counsellor, a cheerful companion, an effectual comforter. By study, by reading, by thinking, one may innocently divert, pleasantly entertain himself, as in all weathers so in all fortunes."—Isaac Barrow.

BOOKS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

An interesting farm exhibit is to be made by the boys and girls of Tippecanoe County when competitive exhibits of farm and culinary products by boys and girls, inaugurated in 1904 by the Tippecanoe County Farmers' Institute Association, will be continued during the present year 1906-7.

This competition is open to all boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18 living in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Any boy or girl may compete for any one of the premiums.

Each article exhibited must have been grown or made by the exhibitor, and in case of poultry the fowls must have been reared from chicks hatched not earlier than March 1, 1906. Each exhibitor will be permitted to compete for but one premium and enter but one article.

No entry fee will be required, but each exhibitor must present a card stating that the holder is a member of the Tippecanoe County Farmers' Institute or Home Makers' Association for the year 1906-07, and also file a statement that the article for exhibition is the product of the exhibitor.

Any one may obtain a membership card in either association prior to, or at the time of, making an exhibit, by paying the annual membership fee of 25 cents to the secretary. At the times and places of making the several exhibits persons will also be appointed to issue membership cards.

At the request of the Farmers' Institute the County Fair Association will again offer premiums in a "Special Farmers' Institute Class." These premiums will this year aggregate \$93.00.

If this could be introduced and followed by the literature on the subject, the boys and girls would become more impressed with the subjects on which writers of experience have deemed important enough to write books of information.

SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS' REUNION.

Nineteen hundred and six marks the fifth year of the Public Library Commission Instruction for Librarians, which opened at Indianapolis in 1902. Members of the classes of 1902, '03, '04 and '05 are invited to meet at Winona Lake with the faculty and class of 1906 on August 8, 1906.

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES.

The citizens of Auburn, Dekalb County, have raised by popular subscription a sufficient amount of money to establish a public library and reading room under the library law of 1901-3, and invited Miss Merica Hoagland, the state organizer, to advise and assist them in the preliminary steps of organization. Miss Hoagland visited Auburn May 23.

Recently the offer of another state organizership for a Public Library Commission was made to Mr. Chalmers Hadley. Indiana is fortunate to have secured his services when she did.

Miss Ida M. Mendenhall, who has been giving a successful course of lectures on work with schools at Pratt Institute School of Library Training, Brooklyn, N. Y., has returned to Indianapolis to begin her preparation of outlines and work for the Commission's Summer School for Librarians. During the first two weeks in August Miss Mendenhall will give to the teachers who are pursuing various courses of study at Winona Lake instruction in methods of teaching children to select books and use libraries. Iowa, Michigan and other state Commissions are introducing similar courses.

During a visit to the White County Farmers' Institute some months ago the state organizer was invited to meet the library board of Monticello and advise with it concerning library interests and furthering them by securing a donation from Mr. Andrew Carnegie. The board was under the impression that it was necessary to secure the site and council appropriation before asking for such a building fund. When the matter was explained, they took immediate action and obtained a promise of a gift from Mr. Carnegie.

It is probable that the citizens of Monticello will meet the usual requirements and secure a library building.

On May 21 the Woman's Club of Muncie presented a library program. Miss Artena Chapin, librarian, Muncie public library, gave an address. Miss Merica Hoagland, state organizer, upon request, gave an account of the organization and work of the Public Library Commission.

Blanks have been sent to all public, college and school libraries which are to be filled out and returned to the office of the Public Library Commission, State House, Indianapolis. The law creating the Public Library Commission provides that it "shall each year obtain reports of all libraries in the state, and on October 31, 1906, the Commission shall make a full report to the Governor as to the library conditions and progress in Indiana."

So the libraries of the state are urged to be prompt in responding to the above request.

LIBRARY SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT.

The first class in Indiana to have completed a one year's course in library science will graduate from the Winona Technical Institute at Indianapolis on June 8. The following program will be carried out:

Sunday, June 3—

Vesper services, Baccalaureate sermon, President S. C. Dickey.

Tuesday, June 5—

Bible contest for \$100 prize.

Wednesday, June 6—

Final examination.

Thursday, June 7—

Exhibit of book bindings and book plates, 2:00-5:00. Class dinner, 7:00.

Friday, June 8—

Commencement exercises, 4:30. Address, Frank Vanderlip, New York. Conferring diplomas. Reception, 5:00-7:00 at President's residence.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES.

List of the books contained in Traveling Library No. 154, made up since publication of latest supplement to Finding Lists:

1. Outlines of the history of France. Guizot.
2. French revolution. Abbott.
3. Growth of the French nation. Adams.
4. Growth and decline of the French monarchy. Mackinnon.
5. Court of Louis XIV. Amand.
6. Court of Louis XV. Amand.
7. France in the nineteenth century. Latimer.
8. Napoleon the first. Seeley.
9. Madame Recamier. Luyster.
10. France. Foncin.
11. French life in town and country. Lynch.
12. Studies of Paris. Amicis.
13. French traits. Brownell.
14. History of French literature. Saintsbury.
15. Masters of French literature. Harper.
16. French poets and novelists. James.
17. French art. Brownell.
18. Barbizon days. Smith.

Library No. 155.

1. Poetic and dramatic works. Tennyson.
2. Alfred Lord Tennyson.
3. Works. Tennyson.
4. Tennyson. Lang.
5. Tennyson. Brooke.
6. Memoirs of the Tennysons. Rawnsley.
7. Poetry of Tennyson. Van Dyke.
8. Poems. Tennyson.
9. Tennyson's Idylls and Arthurian story. MacCullum.
10. Tennyson. Lyall.
11. Records of Tennyson, Ruskin and Browning. Ritchie.
12. Tennyson's In Memoriam. Genung.
13. Key to Tennyson's In Memoriam. Gatty.
14. Companion to In Memoriam. Chapman.
15. Lyrical poems. Tennyson.

Library No. 159.

1. First book of farming. Goodrich.
2. Agriculture for beginners. Burkett.
3. Agriculture: soils. v. 1. Brooks.
4. Agriculture: manures, fertilizers. v. 2. Brooks.
5. Agriculture: animal husbandry. v. 3. Brooks.
6. Russia against India. Colquhoun.
7. Rambles and studies. Mahaffy.
8. America in its relation to the great epochs of history. Mann.
9. Skies and the earth. Iles.
10. Maids and matrons of New France. Pepper.
11. Blazed trail stories. White.
12. Conqueror. Atherton.
13. Yoke. Miller.
14. Darrow enigma. Severy.
15. Undercurrent. Grant.
16. Zelda Dameron. Nicholson.
17. Gordon elopement. Wells & Taber.
18. House of Hawley. Peake.
19. Pioneer. Bonner.

20. Over the border. Barr.
21. Stephen Holton. Pidgin.
22. Shining Ferry. Quiller-Couch.
23. Mediaeval France. Masson.
24. Children's crusade. Gray.
25. Famous battles by land and sea. Long.
26. Our little Italian cousin. Wade.
27. Our little Swiss cousin. Wade.
28. Story of Seigfried. Baldwin.
29. Second jungle book. Kipling.
30. Call of the wild. London.
31. Wheat princess. Webster.
32. Tillie: a Mennonite maid. Martin.
33. Four in camp. Barbour.
34. Pipetown Sandy. Sousa.
35. Old fashioned girl. Alcott.
36. Peasant and the prince. Martineau.
37. Rabbit's ransom. Vawter.
38. St. Nicholas.
39. Water babies. Kingsley.
40. Waste not, want not. Edgeworth.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS.

Alexandria.—The annual library report shows that the public library has received for the year 1905 from city tax levy, \$1,404.92; from township tax levy, \$459.05; from Rev. Baker, secretary, miscellaneous, \$21.61; total, \$1,885.58. The expenses have been \$1,839.64, the largest item of which was \$1,019.85 salaries; lights and fuel, \$305.38. Other items bring up the disbursements to \$1,839.64.

Crown Point.—The Crown Point schools gave a musicale for benefit of public library on Tuesday evening, April 17, in Central Music Hall. Each room of our public schools was represented by a chorus of 24 voices. The program consisted of nursery songs, folk songs, patriotic songs, national songs, and, in fact, selections from most of our composers.

Delphi.—Delphi has the distinction of having one of the finest \$10,000 Carnegie libraries in the country. W. E. Kendricks, of Ft. Wayne, was the architect. The library will be dedicated soon.

Eaton.—A meeting of the members of the Eaton Public Library Association was held at the library, to discuss the resolution which was laid over from the meeting of last Thursday night. The resolution provides that the

books, money and property of the association be turned over to the trustees of the Eaton Public Library.

Evansville.—Willard library is to receive a large consignment of new books shortly. About \$800 has been expended for new publications, and part of the consignment is already at the library. The remainder will be received soon.

It is the intention of the library trustees to increase the periodical list, besides replenishing the book shelves.

Fowler.—Ground is being broken for the new Carnegie library building, to cost \$10,000.

Huntington.—At a regular meeting of the Huntington school board Wednesday evening the members of the City Free Library board were named. They are named for two years and are as follows: First ward, J. W. Ford; second, M. L. Spencer; third, S. M. Saylor; fourth, J. H. Heaston; fifth, Mrs. Frank Felter. Those whose appointments hold over another year are as follows in the order of wards: Miss Mary Cox, Mrs. A. Reichenbach, Mrs. Ed Sexton, Harry Young and Herman Taylor.

LaGrange.—An effort is being made by the citizens of LaGrange to organize a public library. The plan being followed is to secure 100 people who would support it at \$1.50 per member. These members would form the Public Library Association and would choose the officers from their number to govern it. The library would be free to the public.

Logansport.—Miss Elizabeth McCullough, public librarian, has just issued her report for the month of April, and the report is a very creditable one, showing that there is increasing interest in and appreciation of the advantages provided in the library.

During the month the building has been thronged with readers and those desiring books, and every class and condition of the people are beginning to understand that the building and its contents are for them.

Martinsville.—The Carnegie library board of this city has elected Miss Daisy Grubbs as first librarian. Miss Grubbs is the daughter of Judge George W. Grubbs, and an accomplished young woman. The library building will be pushed with all possible haste, and it is intended to have it in operation this year.

Michigan City.—The annual meeting of the Michigan City Public Library Association was held Saturday evening, May 5, at the library building. The association elected directors and officers and received the report of Miss Inez Pierce, the librarian, and Walter Vail, the treasurer. The librarian's report gives a complete account of the work done during the year.

The schools, literary clubs and many others make constant use of the volumes of the reference department. There has been a decided increase in the use of the library by children. Bulletins have been issued from time to time attracting attention to the best books for children. The meeting of the Library League occurs every Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Stories are read or told to the children. The use of the books by the public schools is very encouraging. Library day for the schools has been observed during the year. The grades have made use of more than 3,000 books, magazines and pictures.

Muncie.—Another suburban branch of the Muncie public library has been established for the benefit of the residents of Congerville.

Northern Indiana Librarians.—The April meeting of the Northern Indiana Librarians was held at the Elkhart Carnegie Library and was attended by Mrs. Heatwole and Miss Rockwell, of Goshen; Miss Tutt, of South Bend; Mrs. Jessup, of Laporte, and Miss Pierce, of Michigan City, besides Miss Corwin and others of the staff of the local institution and some members of the local board. The visitors inspected the Elkhart library between 2 and 3 p. m. and then all repaired to the lecture room, where matters of mutual interest were informally discussed. The visitors left on the 5 o'clock cars.

Peru.—A very excellent report has been received from Miss Thiebaud, librarian of the Peru public library. The following extracts will be found of interest:

CATALOG DEPARTMENT:

A start was made towards an Indiana collection. About everything the library contains on Indiana was brought together. A number of state publications were unearthed; also an old Indiana atlas, published by Baskin, Forster & Co., in 1876, and among the books given to us by Miss Emily Mitchell was a copy of the

Miami County atlas, published in 1877, by Kingman Bros.

At present all the easy books are being removed from the shelves in the children's room, recatalogued and placed on the low shelves at the north end of the children's room under the label "Easy books for little children." The fairy tales which have been somewhat scattered throughout the shelves are gradually finding their place among others of their kind.

In our local history collection we have made scarcely any progress, having added nothing but the Miami County atlas, Stevens's History of Miami County, McGinnis's History of Frances Slocum. However, during the coming year we expect to collect some old letters, journals and newspapers, in fact, everything we can find which records the doings of Miami County people from the beginning as such up to date.

WORK WITH THE CHILDREN:

The use of the children's room by all classes of children is most gratifying.

The story hour has proved so successful that it has become a regular feature of the work. In January, 1905, we adopted the plan used in the Carnegie library of Pittsburg and other eastern libraries, noted for their successful work with children, that of systematically preparing for our story hours, using a regular program giving out admittance tickets and not admitting more than 50 children to a story. This necessitates having a greater number of stories each week in order to accommodate all the children applying for tickets, but the result is so much more satisfactory we feel amply repaid for the added work on our part. The upstairs southwest room is used for the story hour, and since the addition of the small chairs and the tinting of the walls is a comfortable, cheery room for the children. Last winter Norse mythology tales were told; this year Miss Miriam Richer has had entire charge of the story telling, and is entertaining the children with the merry adventures of Robin Hood. It is impossible to lay too great stress on the influence for good the story hour has on the children's reading.

EXHIBITS:

The interest shown in the art exhibit of last March was most gratifying. The paintings exhibited were those which hung in the Indiana

building during the World's Fair at St. Louis. There were over 60 paintings and the exhibition of them was made possible for us through the generosity and kindness of the various artists represented and the financial support and encouragement of the art and literary clubs of our city. The paintings were hung in the assembly room of the library and were on exhibition from March 1 to 18. At least 3,760 people took advantage of the treat offered.

Just before the vacation season opened the club table was cleared of books and indexes and given over to the display of numerous railway and steamship pamphlets, time tables, etc. These pamphlets, some of which were profusely illustrated, made a most attractive exhibit and were intended as an aid to the people in planning their summer outings. In August this display was replaced by one of the college and preparatory school catalogs.

Odon.—The Odon Library Association has finally opened and is now ready to loan books to its patrons. One hundred and sixteen books were on the shelves when the library opened and the number will probably reach 200 soon. At a meeting of the association the following officers were elected: President, Dean M. Inman; secretary-treasurer, J. E. Ramsey; librarian, D. O. Williams; chairman of library committee, William Bair. The other members of the library committee are Mrs. W. H. Hueston, Mrs. L. T. Montgomery, A. C. Helm and Charles Breden.

Rochester.—The library board at Rochester will now proceed with the construction of a library building, to be completed in October, Andrew Carnegie having added \$5,000 to his original gift of \$10,000. The township will join with the town in paying the tax for the maintenance of the library.

Terre Haute.—At the regular meeting of the city school trustees the resignation of Miss Leatha M. Paddock, librarian, was accepted, and, on motion of Mr. Derry, Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes, first assistant, was promoted to be librarian.

Wabash.—April 6 was the third anniversary of the opening of the Wabash Carnegie library. The increased use of the library is shown by the number of books circulated and the reference work done.

LIBRARIANS.

Miss Florence S. Wing has been appointed librarian of the public library at Whiting, to succeed Miss Ellen Schaefer, who resigned the first of the year.

Purdue University has appointed Mrs. Ridgeley, formerly assistant librarian at Marion, to assist Librarian W. M. Hepburn in some special cataloging.

Miss Mabel Bonnell, of Rushville, has been named librarian at Earl Park, to succeed Miss Mary Sims, who retired recently. Miss Bonnell was a student at the summer school for librarians conducted by the State Library Commission last summer and has since been engaged in catalog work at Knightstown and Vincennes. Miss Sims, who resigned, was married April 19. She is the niece of Mrs. C. B. Stuart, of Lafayette, who made a liberal donation to the library at the time it was opened.

Mr. Arthur Dransfield, who has served as librarian for over 25 years in the New Harmony public library, has recently been married to Mrs. Julia Soper.

On May 26, Miss Eliza Browning, librarian of the Indianapolis public library, sailed on the steamer Finland of the Red Star line for a summer's trip abroad, which includes London, Paris, Berlin, Dresden, Vienna, Heidelberg, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Scotland, Hull, York and Lake district in England. It is Miss Browning's intention to visit the large libraries of Europe and to make special purchases for the Indianapolis library in foreign book marts.

"Libraries are the shrine where all the relics of the ancient saints, full of true virtue, and that without delusion or imposture, are preserved and reposed."—Bacon.

"The only true equalizers in the world are books; the only treasure-house open to all comers is a library; the only wealth which will not decay is knowledge; the only jewel which you can carry beyond the grave is wisdom. To live in this equality, to share in these treasures, to possess this wealth, and to secure this jewel may be the happy lot of everyone. All that is needed for the acquisition of these inestimable treasures is the love of books."—John Alford Langford.

LIBRARY SCHOOL**Of the Winona Technical Institute, at Indianapolis**

Opens October 10, 1906. Entrance examination June 20, 1906. Tuition fee, \$60.

To give training in technical library science, instruction and practice in methods of library administration is the object of the Library School, which enters upon its second year October 10, 1906, at the Winona Technical Institute, Indianapolis, occupying the site of the former U. S. Arsenal, containing 74 acres and nine buildings well adapted to its use.

Terms: The course of instruction begins October 10, 1906, and closes June 6, 1907. It is divided into three equal terms, allowance being made for vacations.

Course of Study: Instruction and practice covers the following subjects: Accession work, annual reports, appraisal of literature, book numbers, book selecting and buying, bibliography, binding, bulletins, children's work, current events, current periodicals, cataloging, classification, government publications, history of libraries, indexing, inventory, library administration, library buildings, library handwriting, Library of Congress cards, library laws, library publicity, library theses, order work, outlines of English literature, proof-reading, practice in Indiana libraries, reference, shelf-listing and typewriting. Bible study free of

sectarian bias is required. The study of French or German is optional and at the student's expense.

Instruction: Miss Merica Hoagland, for five years State Organizer for the Public Library Commission of Indiana and director for five years of its Summer School for Librarians, is director of the Library School. Miss Anna R. Phelps, a graduate of Vassar College and the New York State Library School, for three years head instructor in the Indiana Summer School for Librarians and field instructor for the Public Library Commission, is head instructor of the Library School and will be assisted by Miss Ida M. Mendenhall, graduate of the Pratt Institute School of Library Training; Miss Lillian B. Arnold, graduate of the University of Illinois Library School; Mr. Chalmers Hadley, of the New York State Library School, and Mr. W. D. Howe, professor of English Literature at Butler University, and the Rev. C. G. Stirling.

Expenses: Tuition fee, \$60.00; text-books and supplies, \$20.00; room and board, \$5.00 to \$7.00 per week.

Admission: Entrance examinations covering general history, general literature and general information will be given on June 20, 1906, to all who apply for admission to the Library School.

WINONA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

President, S. C. Dickey.

Director, W. C. Smith.



